

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JUNE 3, 2014**

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Lisa M. Green; Member Scott J. Lambiase; and Town Administrator Francis J. Lynam. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Kowalski announced the meeting is being recorded and televised by WHCA.

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence during which Chairman Kowalski asked everyone to remember the family of Whitman Middle School teacher Beverly Hassan who passed away last week.

Mr. Lynam called for reorganization of the Board of Selectmen. He then opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chairman. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to nominate Dr. Kowalski to the position of Chairman. Second Mr. Bezanson. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Lynam called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor, so voted 5-0. Mr. Lynam then turned the meeting over to Chairman Kowalski. Chairman Kowalski called for nominations for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Bezanson **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Salvucci for the position of Vice Chairman. Second Ms. Green. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman Kowalski asked for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor, so voted 5-0. Chairman Kowalski called for nominations for the position of Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to nominate Mr. Bezanson for the position of Clerk of the Board of Selectmen. Second Ms. Green, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve bill and payroll warrants. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept correspondence in the Read File. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Chairman Kowalski opened public forum and no one came forward to address the Board.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on Monday, May 5, 2014. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0-1 (Chairman Kowalski abstained).

Treasurer-Collector Mary Beth Carter stepped forward and announced that a bond anticipation note in the amount of \$199,800 has been issued in order to fund engineering costs in connection with a \$3.2 million water main project for the DPW. Ms. Carter noted this is a one year note that will cover costs that are not included in state revolving funds. The note was awarded to Unibank at an interest rate of .55 percent. Ms. Carter stated that Unibank was the lowest bidder.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the FY15 annual appointments as listed in a document on file in the Board of Selectmen's office. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Chairman Kowalski announced various board/committee vacancies for FY15, including 3 vacancies on the Finance Committee; and asked interested parties to please contact the Selectmen's office.

Jared Jacob presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to the Board. Jared explained his intention to renovate the cross country track at the Whitman Middle School which will consist of trimming and clearing brush, removing rocks and tree roots, widening the trail, filling in ruts with stone pack and adding arrows to mark the direction of the trail. Mr. Salvucci and Chairman Kowalski commended Jared on the project. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to authorize Jared Jacob to proceed with his Eagle Scout project at the Whitman Middle School. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the recommendation of the Whitman Council on Aging to nominate Barbara Garvey as representative to Old Colony Elder Services Board of Directors for the period Jul1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of Police Chief Scott Benton to appoint the following members of the WEB Major Crimes and Drug Task Force to the position of Special Police Officer through June 30, 2015:

- Ernie Bell
- Timothy Donahue
- Matthew Graham
- George Khoury
- Matthew Lynch
- Gary Mercurio
- Anne Schuster
- Matthew Snow

Mr. Lynam announced that the agreement between the Town and Comcast is ready for the Board to sign. The contract, which contains essentially the same terms as the previous contract, reflects an increased rate of 4.75 percent this year. Mr. Lynam noted that during negotiations it was discovered that payment of the access funds by Comcast was not consistent with the language in the contract, resulting in a side letter agreement for Comcast to pay the Town \$70,093 that should have been paid over the past 10 years. This money will be applied to cable operations. Mr. Lynam stated that no other cable companies expressed any interest, and recommended the Board vote to award the license to Comcast. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to award the Cable Television Renewal License to Comcast of Massachusetts I, Inc. for the period June 3, 2014 through June 2, 2024; and to execute an agreement between the Town of Whitman and Comcast of Massachusetts I, Inc. in connection with the franchise fees during the term of the Cable Television Renewal License dated September 3, 2013. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve a request for a line item transfer in the amount of \$5,379.12 from line #170 Vocational Education to line item #19 P.I.L.O.T. in order to pay the Town of

Rockland. Second Mr. Bezanson. Mr. Lynam explained that the Town owns the land known as Camp Alice Carleton, a large portion of which lies in Rockland. As a result, the Town must pay taxes to Rockland each year. Mr. Lynam noted that he plans to explore other uses for this land. Hearing no further discussion, Chairman Kowalski called for a vote in connection with the motion on the floor. So voted 5-0.

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that at the suggestion of the Finance Committee, mailing expenses were level funded for FY14. Due to an increase in the cost of postage, he is requesting a line item transfer in order to cover mailing costs through June 30, 2014. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve a line item transfer in the amount of \$5,000 from line item #173 Vocational transportation to line item #101 Mailing Expense. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of D.P.W. Superintendent Donnie Westhaver for a line item transfer in the amount of \$87.25 from line item #315 Sewer Enterprise Fund Union Salaries to line item #317 Sewer Enterprise Fund Longevity. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to approve the request of D.P.W. Superintendent Donnie Westhaver for a line item transfer in the amount of \$87.25 from line item #277 Water Enterprise Fund Salaries to line item #297 Water Enterprise Fund Longevity. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Whitman and Local 1700, A.F.S.C.M.E., Council 93 (D.P.W.) for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014. Second Mr. Bezanson. So voted 5-0. Mr. Lynam noted the contract with the D.P.W. was settled last year. The Board signed a Memorandum of Agreement, which has now been reduced to a contract.

Mr. Lynam advised the Board that Chief Grenno has notified the Board of the appearance of a conflict of interest. A state vehicle that the Town has accepted requires repair work in order to convert it into a forest fire truck. Chief Grenno would like to hire his sister's husband who retired from the Hyannis Fire Department as a Master Mechanic. Because this person is a brother-in-law to Chief Grenno by marriage only, he is not recognized as an immediate family member by the State Ethics Commission. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to accept the Disclosure of Appearance of Interest as required by G.L. c. 268A, §23(b) (3) for Fire Chief Timothy Grenno. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

Mr. Lynam advised the Board of word he has received from the MassDOT in connection with traffic signal improvement at Routes 18 & 27 and Routes 18 & 14. Mass DOT appears to be committed to the project. Funding, which is based on availability, will be provided by the State.

Mr. Lynam noted that local receipts, with the exception of sewer and water, were exceeded this year.

Mr. Lambiase extended his congratulations to Mutual Bank on its grand opening which was held tonight at its newest location on Bedford Street; and also to Whitman Youth Soccer.

Ms. Green congratulated the graduates of Whitman-Hanson Class of 2014 and wished them luck in their future endeavors.

Mr. Salvucci reminded everyone that Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> is Firefighters' Memorial Sunday.

Chairman Kowalski announced that the Whitman Police Department has joined with the Brockton Mayor's Opioid Overdose Prevention Coalition and has taken steps to start a community coalition as well. At a recent meeting held in the community room at the police station, those attending decided on "Whitman Will" as a name for the group. Anyone interested in joining the group may contact Lieutenant Dan Connolly. Further information is available on the police department's website.

Chairman Kowalski stated that he attended the services for Beverly Hassan last week. The outpouring of love and care to the Hassan family was very moving and a testimony to what good teachers can do.

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in accordance with the M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21a, (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; and (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. Second Mr. Bezanson. Roll call vote revealed: Ms. Green – yes; Mr. Lambiase – yes; Mr. Bezanson – yes; Mr. Salvucci yes; and Chairman Kowalski – yes. So voted 5-0. Chairman Kowalski declared that having this discussion in open session will be detrimental to the public body's bargaining or litigating position. The meeting will reconvene in Open Session for the purpose of adjourning the meeting.

At 7:50 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 5-0.

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Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk